

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (K-12)

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* Strike-everything Amendment
 [E] Emergency Clause
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 [P 108] Proposition 108 Clause

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HB 2008 – Chapter 202 – school pupils; alternative graduation requirements

Reinstates, retroactive to January 1, 2008, alternative high school graduation requirements for pupils who have not passed the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) test. Directs the State Board of Education (SBE) to provide for the augmentation of AIMS test scores with additional credit, and phases down the augmentation from 25% to 5% over the next three years.

HB 2042 – Chapter 212 – *school employees; arrests; reporting

Requires a public school employee or applicant who is arrested for or convicted of an offense that would preclude them from receiving a fingerprint clearance card to immediately notify their current or prospective employer. Instructs the SBE to adopt rules revoking a teaching certificate for at least ten years of an employee or applicant who fails to properly notify the school or fails to surrender a certificate or fingerprint clearance card if convicted.

HB 2064 – Chapter 265 – e-learning task force

Expands the duties of the Arizona E-Learning Task Force (Task Force) and requires the Education K-12 Committee of Reference to review the progress of the Task Force.

HB 2167 – Chapter 61 – charter schools; academic contests fund

Allows charter schools to receive monies from the Academic Contests Fund in order to send a pupil who won an academic contest at the state level to the national level of the contest.

HB 2234 – Chapter 302 – JTEDs; bonding

Expands the Class B bonding authority of Joint Technological Education Districts (JTEDs). Prohibits space leased to a JTED by a school district from being included in a school district's square footage calculations for building renewal funding, but allows the space to be included in square footage calculations for new school construction.

HB 2368 – Chapter 267 – school pupils; admission; absences

Changes the time period in which a school must notify the parent of a child in kindergarten through eighth grade when the child is absent from class and allows a school to prohibit a child who has already graduated high school from enrolling in classes.

HB 2369 – Chapter 206 – school districts; notices; electronic publication

Permits school districts to electronically publish their annual financial report and removes the requirement for the report to be submitted on a school-by-school basis.

HB 2441 – Chapter 108 – school textbooks; alternative media producers

Requires the SBE to designate a list of alternative media producers to produce human-voiced audio, large-print, and Braille textbooks for pupils with disabilities.

HB 2469 – Chapter 111 [E] – *schools; overexpenditures; crisis teams; receivership

Delays and extends the repayment period for overexpenditures committed by Saddle Mountain Unified, Union Elementary and Peach Springs Unified school districts and makes several changes regarding receivership and school district financial accountability.

Receivership

- Permanently authorizes the SBE to appoint a receiver to a school district and requires the SBE to review the expenses and costs of the receiver.
- Prohibits a receiver from providing a severance or buy-out package to the superintendent or chief financial officer of a school district if the district was placed into receivership by the SBE.

Overexpenditures

- Prohibits a county school superintendent from drawing a warrant for a school district expenditure that is in excess of the amount budgeted for that school district.

- Requires a county school superintendent, within two business days, to provide written notice to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) if a school district has committed an overexpenditure. Establishes consequences for county school superintendents who fail to comply with notification requirements.
- Directs the ADE, upon notice from a county school superintendent, to monitor and provide technical assistance to a school district that has committed an overexpenditure.
- Instructs the ADE to request a meeting of the SBE if a school district has failed to resolve an overexpenditure or if the overexpenditure exceeds the school district's budget limits by the lesser of \$50,000 or 0.05%. The SBE must decide to instruct the ADE to monitor the school district, direct the ADE to contract with a fiscal crisis team, or appoint a receiver.

Fiscal Crisis Teams

- Requires the fiscal crisis team or receiver to review the school district's financial affairs and submit a report to the SBE within 120 days of being appointed and subsequently submit quarterly progress reports to the SBE.
- Authorizes a level one fiscal crisis team to provide on-site supervision and off-site monitoring of a school district for twelve months or less and authorizes a level two fiscal crisis team to provide on-site supervision and off-site monitoring of a school district for twenty-four months or less and override any financial act or decision.

School District Professional Development Training

- Mandates governing board members and administrative personnel of a school district that has been assigned a level two fiscal crisis team or a receiver to complete twelve hours of professional development training. Stipulates consequences for failure to complete training.

Saddle Mountain, Union, and Peach Springs

- Requires Saddle Mountain Unified, Union Elementary, and Peach Springs Unified school districts to begin making repayments to the state during FY 2008-09 and extends the payments over a nine-year period through FY 2016-17.

Miscellaneous

- Instructs ADE to notify the Attorney General if a superintendent or chief financial officer who was previously employed at a school district when it was placed into receivership is currently employed by another school district or charter school in the state.
- Requires SBE to withhold 10% of the state monies due to a school district for each violation of noncompliance with the uniform system of financial records.

HB 2495 – Chapter 207 [E] – *military reservations; board; accommodation schools

Establishes a five-member military reservation accommodation school board and modifies the general budget limit and revenue control limit for an accommodation school located on a military reservation by the amount of federal impact aid received for classification as heavily-impacted.

HB 2563 – Chapter 2 – *transfer credits; notice; examination

Directs school districts and charter schools to accept all transfer credits earned by a pupil at another school district or charter school in Arizona. Requires a school district or charter school to provide a transfer pupil with a list indicating whether a transfer credits was accepted as an elective or core credit. Allows a pupil to dispute the assignment of a credit by taking and passing a test in each particular course where core credit has been denied.

HB 2566 – Chapter 115 [E] – schools; student teachers; tutors; fingerprinting

Stipulates that a person who participates in an approved student teacher program or who is contracted to provide tutoring services must obtain a fingerprint clearance card prior to participating in any field experience where services will be provided directly to pupils.

HB 2694 – Chapter 222 – schools; fingerprinting; contract employees

Requires school districts to fingerprint or obtain a full set of fingerprints from a contractor, subcontractor, or vendor, or any of their employees, who is contracted to work on school grounds at least five times per month.

HB 2711 – Chapter 139 [E] – school districts; educational mismanagement; intervention

Authorizes the SBE to intervene in a school district with systemic educational mismanagement by appointing a new superintendent and allows the SBE to grant additional powers to the superintendent, including the ability to override decisions made by the school district governing board.

Systemic Educational Mismanagement

- Instructs the ADE to investigate a school district with at least six schools for systemic educational mismanagement if at least 50% of the district's schools are classified as underperforming or failing and at least one school is classified as failing, and then notify the SBE if the school district meets the circumstances of systemic educational mismanagement.

Appointment of Superintendent

- Stipulates that if the SBE determines, by a preponderance of the evidence, that a school district has systemic educational mismanagement, then the SBE must decide whether to appoint a new superintendent. ADE must recommend three persons for superintendent.

Powers and Duties of Appointed Superintendent

- Directs a superintendent appointed by the SBE to review and investigate the school district's educational affairs and submit a report, including an educational improvement plan, to the SBE within 120 days of being appointed and subsequently submit quarterly progress reports.
- States that the educational improvement plan approved by the SBE may authorize the superintendent to override certain decisions of the school district governing board, initiate decisions concerning management and operation, hire and terminate personnel, cancel existing employment contracts, and refuse to reemploy any teacher who has not been employed by the district for more than three consecutive years.
- Directs the superintendent to appoint a 15-member Community Advisory Committee (Committee) and specifies that the Committee is allowed to attend all meetings of the school district's governing board and have access to the governing board's public records. Input from the Committee must be included in the superintendent's quarterly progress reports.

Powers and Duties of the SBE

- Instructs the SBE to conduct a formal review of the superintendent's progress every six months to determine if the operation of the school district should be returned to the governing board.

HB 2747 – Chapter 208 – charter schools; ASDB; transportation

Permits a school district that transports pupils to a campus of the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) to transport or contract to transport sensory-impaired pupils to a charter school. Specifies a two-year probationary employment period for new teachers at ASDB, and changes the status of ASDB as an uncovered agency to a covered agency.

SB 1081 – Chapter 155 – TAPBI program; administrative salaries

Specifies that the salaries of any administrator employed by a Technology Assisted Project Based Instruction Program (TAPBI) school must be included in the TAPBI school's annual report.

SB 1172 – Chapter 27 [E] – unorganized territories; adjacent school districts

Removes the requirement for an unorganized territory to join only an adjacent unified school district when the territory has more than 150 pupils with certificates of educational convenience.

SB 1215 – Chapter 56 – charter schools; approved plans; renewal

Instructs the sponsor of a charter school, at least 18 months prior to the expiration of a charter, to notify the charter school that they may apply for renewal. Stipulates that a charter school seeking renewal must apply at least fifteen months before expiration of their approved charter.

SB 1216 – Chapter 189 – schools; biometric information; prohibition

Prohibits school districts and charter schools from collecting a pupil's biometric information without written parental permission. Each school must provide written notice to the parents of pupils stating their intent to collect biometric information 30 days prior to the collection.

SB 1218 – Chapter 28 – *education database; pupil privacy

Requires the ADE to comply with specific security measures and the Family Educational and Privacy Rights Act when maintaining an education database.

SB 1229 – Chapter 31 – *diabetes; treatment; schools

Authorizes the governing board of a school district or charter school to adopt policies and procedures for pupils who have been diagnosed with diabetes by a licensed health professional, to manage their diabetes in the classroom, on school grounds, and at school-sponsored activities.

SB 1230 – Chapter 127 [E] – school safety; school misconduct

Permits a school district to apply to participate in the School Safety Program (Program) for up to three fiscal years at a time. Specifies that a school district must comply with Program requirements in order to receive Program monies.

SB 1334 – Chapter 86 – compact; educational opportunity; military children

Establishes the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact) and the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to address issues of educational transition for children of military families. Stipulates that the Compact is effective and binding on the enactment of the Compact by at least 10 states.

SB 1401 – Chapter 74 – school safety program; reserve officers

Allows the ADE to permit a law enforcement agency to assign a full-authority reserve peace officer certified by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board to participate in the School Safety Program.

SB 1443 – Chapter 200 – SDRC; small school district adjustment

Pushes back the effective operational date for a school district that has unified as a result of the School District Redistricting Commission (SDRC) plan by one fiscal year. Allows a school district that unified under the SDRC plan to use the small school district adjustment for four years if at least one of the school districts in the newly unified district was eligible for the adjustment prior to unification.